

Message Text

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43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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P P 071545Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0469

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN PRIORITY

USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 3930

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY FOR STABLER

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, EAIR, CY, UK, TU

SUBJECT: AEROFLOT OFFER AND NICOSIA AIRPORT

REF: LONDON 14479

1. UK HIGH COMMISSIONER SAW FONMIN CHRISTOPHIDES NOVEMBER 7
ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM LONDON (REFTEL).

2. CHRISTOPHIDES SAID COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING LATER
TODAY TO REACH DECISION ON LARNACA AIRPORT REHABILITATION.
HE VOLUNTEERED THAT SOVIETS HAD INDEED OFFERED ASSIST IN THIS
AS WELL AS ENTERING ANY KIND OF PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENT WITH
CYPRUS AIRWAYS THAT MIGHT BE DESIRED BY GOC.

3. OLVER STATED HMG ACTIVELY CONCERNED ON NICOSIA REOPENING.
HE PROVIDED LONDON'S REVAMPED STATISTICAL COMPARISON OF
AEROFLOT'S YAK-40S AND BMA'S VISCOUNTS. HE EXPRESSED HOPE
THAT IF GIVEN COMPARABLE DEAL, GOC WOULD TIP WEST.

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4. CHRISTOPHIDES REITERATED HIS EARLIER ASSURANCE ON FINAL POINT (WHICH WE HAVE AS WELL FROM CLERIDES). HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT GOC WOULD BEGIN ACTIVE EVALUATION OF AEROFLOT OFFER NOVEMBER 11. IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION IT TURNED OUT THAT ACTIVE EVALUATION CONSISTED OF DEPARTURE FOR MOSCOW ON THAT DATE OF TEAM COMPOSED OF CYPRUS AIRWAYS DIRECTORS ELIADES AND SAVVA.

5. OLVER OBTAINED CHRISTOPHIDES' PROMISE HOLD OFF ON FINAL INSTRUCTION FOR ELIADES/SAVVA DEPARTURE UNTIL NOVEMBER 8 TO ENABLE OLVER OBTAIN LONDON'S ESTIMATE ON HOW LONG IT MIGHT TAKE TO GET NICOSIA AIRPORT OPEN.

6. OLVER HAS A HUNCH THAT UNDER SOVIET PRESSURE GOC IS ALREADY MUCH FURTHER DOWN THE ROAD WITH AEROFLOT THAN IT WILLING ADMIT. HE DOES NOT KNOW WHAT LONDON CAN SAY ON NICOSIA REOPENING THAT WILL BE SUFFICIENTLY REASSURING TO OBTAIN FURTHER DELAY IN DISPATCH OF CYPRUS AIRWAYS DELEGATION TO MOSCOW. HE HOPED THAT THIS MIGHT BE ONE OF SUBJECTS ON SECRETARY'S AGENDA FOR ANKARA. AMBASSADOR SAID SECRETARY'S PARTY FULLY INFORMED OF CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS, BUT WE COULD NOT PREDICT WHETHER IT WOULD FIGURE IN WHATEVER LIMITED CONCESSIONS HE MIGHT BE ABLE OBTAIN FROM TURKEY.
CRAWFORD

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECRETARY'S PARTY.

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